



Devon Winter Games: Festival report



Cross country wasn't the only County championship held in Torbay on Wednesday. Finals were held for a number of other sports, including volleyball, table tennis, netball, and others. By bringing all of these championships together and combining them with a series of sports taster events, the organisers created a festival of sports, attended by some of the best sportspeople from across the county.

The opening ceremony featured a secondary school dance troupe, a display of skateboarding tricks, and some BMX flatwork from champion BMX rider & 3x Guinness World Record holder Matti Hemmings, which left us amazed and astonished.



Flatwork flair: Matti Hemmings.



Skateboard Kniefel: the board pro takes off.



Each of the participants was given an event tee-shirt to wear and to keep.



Time for a quick photo-call: (L-R) Olivia S, Olivia T, Amber, Amy, Ruby, Molly, Rose, Poppy B, Kyla, & Poppy W.

After the Cross Country races and awards ceremony, we were free to try any of the taster sessions which were on offer around the centre. Unfortunately the bad weather meant that several of the events had been cancelled (lacrosse), or moved indoors (skateboarding), which meant that some activities were forced to share space/time opportunities. Sadly some other providers had decided not to attend at all. Despite being disappointed that some were unavailable (especially laser shooting and power hoop), we were still able to try a wide range of activities.

First up was 'volleyball speed cage', where we were challenged to see how fast we could blast a volleyball at a target. It was tricky to master the 'loft-and-spike' 1-2, but several of the children were soon getting up to 20mph with their shots (don't stand in front of them if they have a ball!).



Volleyball speed cage: don't get in the way!



The Taekwondo master developing our footwork.



Ruby Darby and Kyla McCarthy practise jump kicks.



Hy-ya! Molly Ellis practises repeat kicks.

Then we made our way to the Taekwondo studio, where a master put us through our paces, and soon had us on our toes, developing some fancy footwork. We worked with partners and pads to try out a variety of different moves, including high kicks over a target, high kicks to a target, jump kicks, repeat kick sequences, and kick combinations. Poppy Williams so impressed the master with her gymnastic ability that that he awarded her a games medal for her poise and balance.

Next we went upstairs to the skateboarding, where we donned helmets, knee and shin pads, to learn a variety of skills and tricks on a board. Some of us found the balance a little tricky to begin with, but by the end all of us had learnt a new skill, or discovered that we could do something we had never tried before. Out of a session of 25 children, two were able to execute a

particularly complex flip and spin manoeuvre which impressed the board-pro, who awarded games medals to Amy & Poppy W.



Gearing up for some skateboarding.



Ryan Wright and Bradley Harris taking lessons from the pro ...



... practising ...



... and putting their skills to the test.

In the last few minutes before our departure we also managed to fit in some rugby practise with an expert coach, equipped with body pads, who challenged us to work as a team to evade his defence. We split into two teams to try to get past him, but neither team managed it. More Tag rugby training needed, Mrs Priddis!

Finally, reviewing our experience through the day and reflecting on all of the training that had been put into preparing for the both the Games and the County Championships, it was my turn to announce a leader's award. I awarded my games medal to Ruby Darby, for outstanding dedication, effort and improvement in her cross country running.

Well done everyone for being such brilliant participants. Your behaviour and your attitude to the different sports were a credit to the school and I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did! Well done indeed!

Mr. Corney.

P.S. Watch out for exciting news about active clubs for the summer term ... coming soon!

"I enjoyed it because we got to watch the BMX guy, he was really good! I also enjoyed watching the cross country."
- Summer Purdy. (3EL).

My favourite thing was the taekwondo because I've never done taekwondo before. My second favourite thing was the volley ball speed cage. My last favourite thing was skateboarding because I did a trick, walking on the skateboard!" - Olivia Telford (3JT).

"My favourite of all was skateboarding because I have never done it before and we got to try some tricks. My second was taekwondo because we got to learn some new skills!" - Sky Purdy (3JT).

"My favourite activity was the rugby. I also liked the volleyball speed cage. My favourite bit of the day was watching the man doing the amazing BMXing. I enjoyed everything; it was a lovely school trip!" - Sophie Maxey (4AP).

"I enjoyed the taekwondo and the volleyball because I had never been interested in them before."
- Ryan Wright (5ADS).

"I had a really good day. I enjoyed the rugby because we had to get to the other side while somebody tried to block us! I also liked Air Control (volleyball speed cage), because it knew how fast my ball went." - Archie Allison (3EL).

"I really enjoyed the rugby because you had to try to get past the grown up that was blocking you. I also really liked watching the BMXing because they were doing some awesome stunts!" - Olivia Shilletø (3JT).

"My favourite of all was skateboarding because I have never done it before and we got to try some tricks! My second was taekwondo because we got to learn some new skills." - Sky Purdy (3JT).

"I liked the skateboarding and the volley ball and all of the other sports that we did." - Alfie Blackford (4AP).

"The Winter Games was very fun. One activity I particularly enjoyed was taekwondo, but I really enjoyed the whole day!" - Ruby Darby (4AP).

"My favourite sport was taekwondo because I liked kicking the pads!" - Molly Ellis (5ADS).